

"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"

Episode #40

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.S.T.

NOVEMBER 17, 1932

THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers."

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER:

Now we go to the National Forest, where Ranger Jim Robbins and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, are managing and protecting the forest resources, -- looking after the timber the watersheds, the livestock ranges, the game and wild life, and the recreational advantages -- all resources of the National Forests that must be managed on sound principles and forward-looking plans, and protected constantly against damage, to keep them of permanent value and use to the people of the United States. -- Today, as we tune in on the Pine Cone District, where Ranger Jim is in charge, we find him and Jerry riding down one of the mountain trails, on the way back from an inspection trip in the forest --

(SOUND OF HORSES ON TRAIL, AT WALK)

JIM: (TALKING TO HORSE) Perkin' up a bit, huh, Dolly? --
She knows she's headed toward home now. -- (PAUSE)
-- Jerry, you haven't had much to say lately.

JERRY: Huh - What's that?

JIM: I said you don't seem to be very talkative this
afternoon.

JERRY: Oh -- well, I've been watching that range of
mountains over there -- see? -- Where the sun's
lighting it up -- and some of the autumn leaves are
still showing. -- This is sure beautiful country,
Jim.

JIM: Yes, it is, Jerry. -- Whoa, Dolly -- Take a look from
here, Jerry.

JERRY: Whoa, Spark. (HORSES STOP) -- Boy, this is great!
-- Look at Cloud Peak up there -- with the snow
glistening in the sun!

JIM: Crowned with a million diamonds, eh?

JERRY: Yes. -- And look at that stretch of timber off there
-- like a big green carpet.

JIM: Yep. -- Jerry, the forests serve mankind in many
ways -- many ways -- but maybe the inspiration they
give us, the beauty, that sorta seems to bring out the
good in us and gives us a feeling of being at peace
with the world -- maybe that's the greatest service
of all. It's hard to say.

JERRY: It does affect you that way, though, Jim. Seems like
you sorta feel the beauty all around you here. --
Sorta thrills you.

JIM: Uh huh. -- And it makes you feel your responsibility as Ranger here more strongly than ever -- your responsibility to keep this forest green and growing, -- to keep it beautiful and useful.

JERRY: It sure does. -- Smell that keen air, Jim! And the pine scent. -- It's just like a tonic.

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: You know, I'm getting so I feel like I belonged here with the forest now, Jim. It was a little strange to me at first -- you know -- kind of awesome, I guess -- but I think I'd feel restless if I was away from the forest for very long now.

JIM: You'd be

"sad and sort of lonely,

In the midst of many men;

Sort o' longin' for the open

And the lonesome land again.

For a saddle 'neath you creakin',

With the skyline for a goal,

And the weary days of ridin'

On the long and lone patrol." --

Giddap, Dolly.

JERRY: All right, Spark (CLUCKS TO HORSE) -- Yeah. That's it exactly, Jim.

(HORSES START AGAIN, AT WALK)

JIM: Yep, I've felt that way many a time, Jerry. Last time I was down to the city, when I was in the Regional Office on detail, I began to get fidgety before I'd been there two days. (CHUCKLES) Besides gettin' lost a dozen times. -- I've blazed trails through virgin wilderness -- like our Primitive Area back of Cloud Peak there -- where you couldn't see a sign of anyone ever having been there before, and never got lost yet so's I couldn't find my way out all right. But darned if I can find my way around some of these big cities.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Too many tall buildings, huh?

JIM: Yep. (CHUCKLES) One time when I was in headquarters in Washington, D. C., on a special job, I used to wander over half the town every night -- and in and out of all those circles and catty-corner avenues they have there -- tryin' to get home from the office. So one of the boys that was workin' with me suggested that we get a marking axe, and blaze a trail along the lamp posts between the office and our boarding house.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) That'd've been a swell idea.

JIM: Well, here we are back on the main road again. -- Want to step up a little, Dolly?

(JERRY CLUCKS TO HORSE)

(HORSES BREAK INTO TROT)

JIM: We'll be back early today, Jerry. Time for some work around the Station. -- Whoa, Dolly --

JERRY: Whoa (HORSES STOP) -- What's the matter?

JIM: What's that, there in the road? A lady's pocket book?

JERRY: Oh! Looks like a lady's hat. Some lady lost her hat in the road, I guess. -- Wait a second -- I'll get it.

JIM: All right. I reckon you're more of an expert on feminine wearing apparel than I am.

JERRY: Yeah, it's a girl's hat. -- Hey, look, Jim! There's a note in it! Scribbled in pencil. It says: "They got me. Two men.!"

JIM: Let's see it. -- Yeah. -- "They got me. Two men," it says.

JERRY: Gosh! Do you s'pose there's been a kidnaping on our Forest?!

JIM: Well, it might be just a hoax, or some bit of tomfoolery, but I reckon the matter better be investigated.

JERRY: Yeah. Gosh! It sure looks like somebody's been kidnaped.

JIM: See anything else around here to throw light on the matter?

JERRY: N-no. I don't see anything. -- The road's been traveled too much to make anything out of the auto tracks.

JIM: Well, then we'll go down to the village and see if we can find out if anyone's missing. -- Giddap, Dolly.

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JERRY: All right. Giddap, Spark.

(FADEOUT WITH SOUND OF HORSES)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (COMING UP) Hi, Boss.

JERRY: Hello, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Well, you boys are back early. What happened today?
Anything exciting?

JERRY: Gosh, yes, Mrs. Robbins. Look here!

BESS: My land, what are you doing with that thing?

JERRY: It's a hat! See, a girl's hat! A mysterious hat.

BESS: Well, what's so mysterious about it?

JERRY: We found it on the road, see --

BESS: Oh, well I don't see anything so strange about that.

JERRY: But it had a note in it, -- see, and --

JIM: Heard of anyone missing today, Boss? Anyone
kidnaped around here?

BESS: Kidnaped!?! My heavens! Has someone been kidnaped?!

JIM: Well, it looks kinda suspicious, Boss. You see, this
note was in the hat there. It says: "They got me.
Two men."

BESS: Oh, it must have been a kidnaping all right. Oh, dear
and on our Forest, too. -- No, I haven't heard of
anyone being missed here in Winding Crock -- and I
was just down at the store, too.

JIM: Well, that's where all the news gets spread from,
if there is any news. -- Jerry, do you want to go
over to the hotel, and find out if anyone's been
missing there?

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JERRY: Sure. Right away.

JIM: Ask the manager. There's only a few guests there now, and he probably knows the whereabouts of most of 'em.

JERRY: (GOING OFF) Yeah, I'll go right over.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

BESS: Oh, I do hope nothing terrible has happened.

JIM: Well, we'll see what we can find out. I'll get Blue Lake on the phone now, and see if they noticed anyone go by, that looked suspicious.

BESS: Yes, do.

JIM: Hello - line clear? (RINGS PHONE TWO LONG RINGS)--
Hello -- hello, Blue Lake? -- Is that you, Walter?
-- Say, Walt, have you seen any suspicious looking cars go by your place today? - Any cars with two men and a girl? -- (FADING OUT) -- Yeah, two men and a girl -- Uh huh --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

BESS: (COMING UP) Oh, Jim --

JIM: Yeah -- What is it, Bess?

BESS: Have you learned anything more about the girl -- and the two men? -- I'm so worried for fear something awful might've happened,

JIM: Haven't found out anything much yet, Bess. The only car Walter noticed going by Blue Lake with two men and a woman in it was a sport car with three youngsters -- and the kids were all laughing and whooping when they went by, he said, so it didn't look exactly like there was any foul play afoot, or any case of abduction there.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and appears to be a formal document or letter.

BESS: No, that couldn't have been the kidnapers. --
Oh dear, I'm sure it was some bad, desperate men that did it. Maybe they've taken some poor girl up to a dark lonely spot in the forest -- they might be torturing her, Jim.

JIM: Well - that sounds like Jerry coming back. We'll see what he's found out.

BESS: He has someone with him, I think.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JERRY: (ENTERING) Say, Jim, this is Mrs. DeVoe. She says her daughter's missing, and --

MRS. DEVOE: (EXCITED) You must do something! My daughter -- she's disappeared! Oh dear!

JIM: Here now, what's the trouble, Mrs. DeVoe? Have a chair here, and tell us about it.

BESS: Yes, sit down here, Mrs. DeVoe.

MRS. DEVOE: My daughter's disappeared! You must do something, right away!

JIM: WELL, maybe we can, Mrs. DeVoe. Do you recognize this hat here?

MRS. DEVOE: (YELPS) O-oh. It's Margaret's! It's my daughter's! She's been kidnaped!

JIM: It's your daughter's hat, eh? Are you sure of it, Mrs. DeVoe?

MRS. DEVOE: (INDIGNANT) I certainly am. It's an exclusive model from the La Parisienne Shoppe, of course, and --

JIM: Well, that helps quite a bit, Mrs. DeVoe. Now tell us when you first missed your daughter. Her name's Margaret, you say?

MRS. DEVOE: Yes. -- You see, I was in the hotel parlor -- I was just going to bid game in no trumps, I think it was. -- Yes. My partner had indicated strength in diamonds and clubs, you see, and --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) Yes, but when did you miss her, Mrs. DeVoe?

MRS. DEVOE: Oh dear, I'm trying my best to tell you. -- I was playing cards, I said, with Mrs. Dalrymple and Mrs. Evenston and --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) Yes?

MRS. DEVOE: And the hotel manager came up with this young man --

JIM: Mr. Quick?

MRS. DEVOE: Yes. And asked me if I had missed my daughter -- And then it dawned on me all of a sudden that I hadn't seen Margaret for hours!

JIM: For how long?

MRS. DEVOE: Why I'm quite certain she wasn't at the table at lunch time. -- Oh dear! I was so upset I simply couldn't finish playing the hand. I'm sure I would have made the bid --

JIM: That's a shame -- You haven't seen your daughter since this morning then?

MRS. DEVOE: Uh - no - uh I'm sure I haven't. I was playing bridge this forenoon too, you see. Oh dear! I'm so upset!

JERRY: The hotel manager said he saw the girl going out with her coat and hat on just before lunch-time, Jim. That's why we asked Mrs. DeVoe if she knew where her daughter was.

JIM: Uh huh. I see, Jerry.

MRS. DEVOE: But you must find my daughter, Mr. Ranger! She's been kidnaped! -- Oh dear! It's terrible. Suppose it got in the papers!

JIM: We'll do our best, ma'am. Just take it easy now a minute. -- Has your daughter had any boy friends -- any suitors, so to speak?

MRS. DEVOE: Why of course. Margaret is very popular with the younger set. She's engaged, you know, to a young man whose father is --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) Engaged, eh? -- Any rivalry you know of? Any jealousy over her being engaged?

MRS. DEVOE: Why naturally. All the other young men in her set were very much put out when we announced her engagement. -- But no one in our set would do a thing like this. She's been kidnaped by desperate men, I know. Desperate men, after her father's money!

JIM: Yes, it might be that.

MRS. DEVOE: Oh, dear! Can't you do something!?

JIM: We'll do what we can, Mrs. DeVoe. -- Jerry, I've got a sort of hunch.

JERRY: Have you? What?

JIM: Well, we found that hat on the Blue Lake Road.
Most likely the kidnapers, whoever they were, went
on past Blue Lake to Big Bend, - and I've got a hunch
that if we went over to Big Bend now, we might found
out something.

JERRY: Yeah. Let's go!

JIM: Wanta get the car warmed up?

JERRY: Sure. (GOING OFF) Right away. (SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: Would you like to ride over to Big Bend with us, Mrs.
Devoe, so's you can help us identify your daughter, if
we should see 'er? -- (SLIGHT CHUCKLE) You would
know your daughter if you saw 'er, wouldn't you,
Mrs. DeVoe?

MRS. DEVOE: Why - uh -- (INDIGNANT) Sir!? -- (EXCITED)
My own little Margaret! Oh dear! Maybe she's
been murdered!

JIM: Now there, don't get upset, Mrs. DeVoe. -- We'll go
over to Big Bend by the dirt road. It'll bump you
around some, but it's a lot shorter. -- All set?

MRS. DEVOE: I -- guess so.

JIM: (GOING OFF) Don't wait supper on us, Bess. Can't
tell when we'll be back.

BESS: All right, Jim. I do hope you find her--

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF AUTO, CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JIM: Well, here's Big Bend -- still on the map, I reckon.
-- I think I'd better hunt up the J.P. first of all.

JERRY: All right. -- Say, Mrs. DeVoe. Is your daughter --
uh - is she -- well -- good looking?

MRS. DEVOE: Uh? - Why, naturally --

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Figuring on being the handsome hero that
rescues the fair maiden, Jerry?

JERRY: (FUSSED) Well - n-no, -- but I was just thinking
that might have something to do with the case; --
you see - uh if she was -- uh -- good looking --
maybe someone'd be more apt to be abducting 'er.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Might be something in that, Jerry --
The newspapers'd probably be saying: "Pretty girl
disappears in bold daylight kidnaping" -- big
headlines. --

MRS. DEVOE: Oh! My, this mustn't get in the newspapers'
That'd be awful!

JIM: Yep. -- Pull up over there, Jerry. That's where
the J.P. hangs out.

JERRY: Okay. (AUTO STOPS)

MRS. DEVOE: (SCREAMS) Margaret! That's my daughter! There!
Quick! Save her! O-oh!

JIM: The girl without any hat, there?

MRS. DEVOE: Yes! O-oh!

JIM: Doesn't look like she's in any special danger just
now. (SOUND OF AUTO DOOR) Let's see what's going
on here. -- Are you Miss DeVoe?

MARGARET: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Why, yes - uh - I mean No, I'm not.
(UP) I'm Mrs. Jeck Purdy.

JIM: Oh, I see. (CHUCKLES) MY hunch was right.

MRS. DEVOE: (COMING UP, BREATHELESS) Margaret! Oh, dear! Are you all right! My heavens, I never was so frightened in my life!

MARGARET: Jack and I are married now, Mother.

MRS. DEVOE: Married! Margaret! Oh dear, help me, someone -- I'm going to faint -- I know I'm going to faint.

MARGARET: Mother. Why all the fuss? We just eloped -- can't you see?

MRS. DEVOE: Oh, this is terrible. Everything's spoiled. -- (STERNLY) Young man, how dare you run off and marry my daughter like this -- without even consulting me?

MARGARET: Oh now, Mother. Leave Jack alone. We were going to be married anyhow, you know.

JIM: Is this young man here the one you were engaged to already?

MARGARET: Yes.

JIM: He didn't carry you off against your will, then?

MARGARET: No. Of course not. -- You see, Mr. Ranger, Mother wanted to make us have a big stiff old formal wedding -- but we wanted -- we wanted it to be romantic -- don't you see?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Yep. I see. -- But what was the idea of dropping that note in the road, then?

MARGARET: Oh, I wanted it to seem like Jack and Billy -- Billy came with us and did all the arranging and everything, you know -- I wanted it to look like they were carrying me off by force -- like young Lochinvar or something. I wanted to make it seem thrilling -- don't you understand?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Sure I understand. You're right, Miss. Make life a thrilling adventure all you can. -- Sure, you can get a thrill out of almost anything if you go at it the right way. My young pardner here and I were just talking this afternoon about what a thrill we get out of seeing our forest up there with the sunlight on it -- out of just being in it. See? -- Make life one big adventure, if you can. But look here, Miss -- 'scuse me, I guess it's Missus now, huh?

MARGARET: Yes.

JIM: Well -- you want to remember other people when you're looking for thrills -- you and your new pardner here now -- You want to remember other people's feelings. -- You see, you had your mother here worried to death -- (SLIGHT CHUCKLE) besides interruptin' her bridge game.

MARGARET: I -- I guess it was -- kind of -- thoughtless.

MRS. DEVOE: It's perfectly scandalous! Imagine! Running off like this -- to this place nobody ever heard of!

MARGARET: M-mother, you act like we'd done something terrible. -- (COMMENCING TO SOB) Isn't anyone going to -- with us -- happiness?

JIM: (CHUCKLING, HEARTILY) Sure we do. Sure we do. --
Don't we, Mrs. DeVoe?

MRS. DEVOE: (WEAKLY) Y-yes.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, you never can tell what the Forest Rangers
always stand ready to help out in emergencies, and to
be of service to the interests of the national
forest communities, in carrying on their work of
developing and protecting the forests for the
public benefit.

Next Thursday at this same hour Ranger Jim and Jerry
will be with us again. This program is a
presentation of the National Broadcasting Company,
with the cooperation of the United States Forest
Service.

is/9:45 A.M.

Nov. 14, 1932

